

Urban District Council of
Oswaldtwistle.

...

Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health

...

Including Details of Work done by the Sanitary
Inspector for the District of Oswaldtwistle, for
the year ended 31st December

1938

Also a Report of the Cleansing Services for the
Year April 1st, 1938, to March 31st, 1939.

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Health Committee

From April 1938, to April 1939.

Councillor J. WARD, Chairman.

„ N. BALL.
„ H. NUTTALL.
„ J. HAWORTH.
„ A. TAYLOR.
„ D. PETERS.
„ W. F. METCALF, J.P., C.C.
„ J. W. HILL.
„ A. WILSON.
„ REV. J. DODD, B.A., J.P.

Meetings : Usually 1st Monday in the month, at 2-30 p.m.

Health Department

Medical Officer of Health :

FRANK W. PARE, M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (London).

Sanitary Inspector	...	...	P. J. FISHER, Mem. R. San. I.
Clerk to the Health Department			E. ISHERWOOD.
Disinfectors	...	...	{T. BRUDENELL. J. HITCHEN.
Caretakers of Smallpox Hospital...			Mr. & Mrs. S. WRIGHT.
Foreman of Scavenging Department			R. WALMSLEY.
Caretaker of Slaughterhouses	...		J. PORTER.
Steam Disinfector Operators	...		{T. BRUDENELL. J. HITCHEN.
Motor Ambulance Drivers	...		{J. WARREN. J. HIRST.

TOWN HALL,

OSWALDTWISTLE.

May, 1939.

**To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District of Oswaldtwistle.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of Oswaldtwistle for the year ending December 31st, 1938. The Report has been drawn up in accordance with Circular 1728 issued by the Ministry of Health, October, 1938.

The various rates in this report are based upon the Registrar General's estimate of the population for the mid-year 1938.

The Birth Rate is higher, being 10.6 per 1,000, and shews an increase of 0.9 on 1937, but still compares unfavourably with the rate for England and Wales (15.1 per 1,000).

Seven deaths occurred in infants under one year giving an Infantile Mortality Rate (51 per 1,000 live births) ; this is an increase of 11 over the 1937 figure. Premature births and congenital debility were the principal causes of these deaths.

The Still Birth Rate, 49 per 1,000 (live and still births), is a decrease of 18 per 1,000 on that of 1937.

The Death Rate (14.3) is slightly lower than last year, but higher than the rate for the whole country which was 11.6.

The Death Rate from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System is slightly lower, and the Death Rate from Cancer shows an increase of 0.49 per 1,000 on 1937.

The Maternal Mortality rate is 7.40 per 1,000 live births, and 7.04 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

The estimated population of the area still shows a slight decline due to the excess of deaths over births and migration.

The report on the Water Supply and Sewage Disposal is discussed in Section C, the Housing Report in Section D, and in Section F, the report on the Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

The Sanitary Inspector's report is also included in this Report.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector and the Clerk of the Health Department for their help during the year. The Sanitary Inspector has discharged his duties with energy and zeal. His work is deserving of the highest praise.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk to the Council, the Accountant, Surveyor, and other Officials for their assistance to me in the work of the Public Health Department.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRANK W. PARE,
Medical Officer of Health.

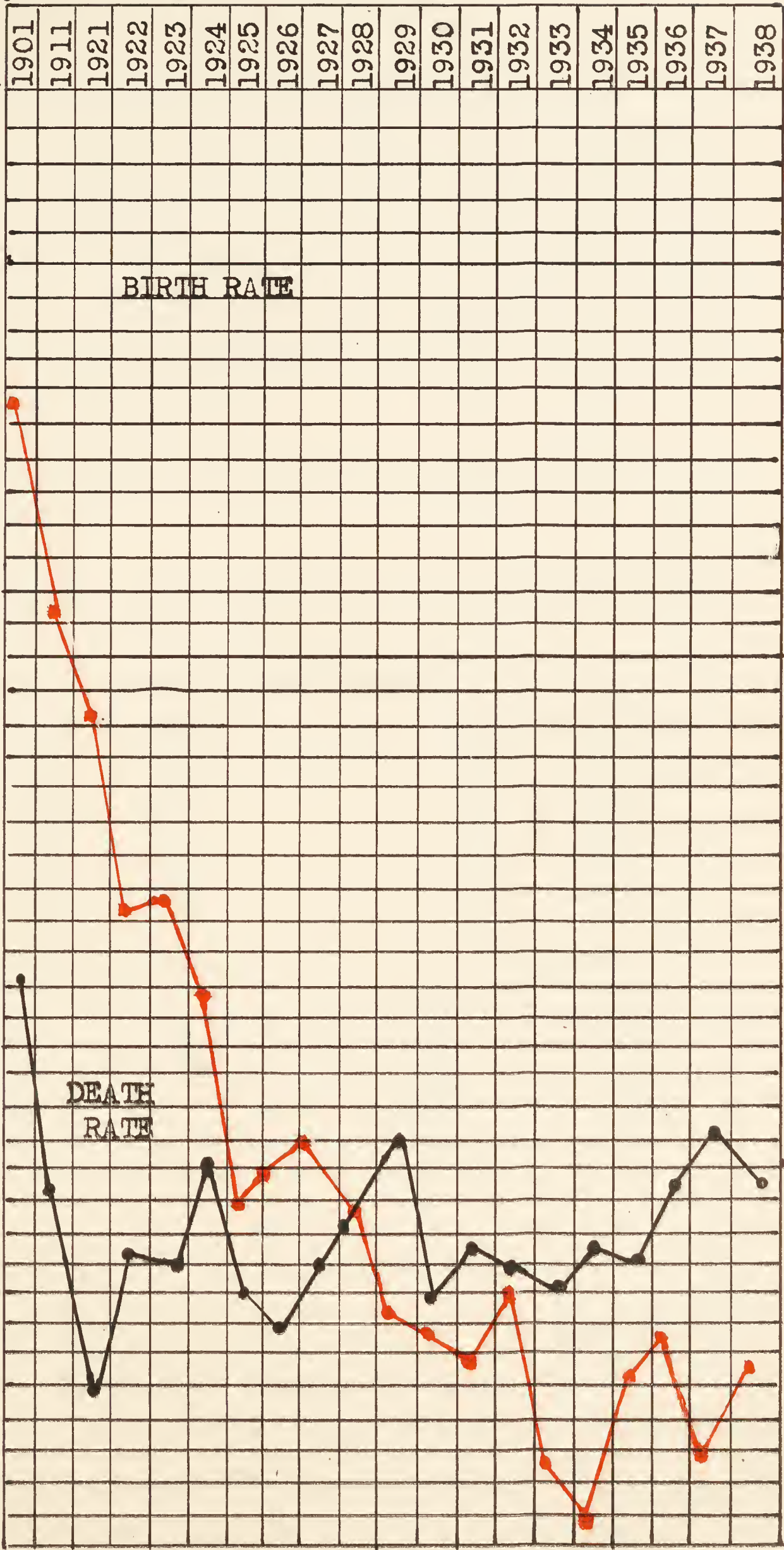
SECTION A.


STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	4,885
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	14,221
„ (Estimated middle 1938)	...	...	...	...	12,620
Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Book at end of 1938)	...	...	...	...	4,016
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£60,400
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	£228

Chart showing Birth Rate and Death Rate for years 1901-1938 inclusive.

Rate per
1000 of
population





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Social Conditions and Chief Industries in the Area.

The occupations of the inhabitants of the Township have changed considerably during the last few years. Formerly a number were employed in chemical works, coal mining and paper making; the two latter industries have entirely ceased in the district and practically the only occupation now is cotton spinning and weaving, and chemical manufacturing. Some of the male population find employment in the adjoining Township of Accrington in the textile machinery works, and a small number of the remainder are engaged in milk farming, cardboard roll making, and laundry work.

A large proportion of the female inhabitants are employed in the cotton industry. A large percentage of the insured population are unemployed.

No particular occupation has been noted to have any special influence on the public health.

The population according to the Census of :—

1801 was	2710	1871 was	10282
1811 „	3512	1881 „	12206
1821 „	4960	1891 „	13296
1831 „	5897	1901 „	14192
1841 „	6643	1911 „	15714
1851 „	7654	1921 „	15125
1861 „	9246	1931 „	14221

Houses Inhabited.			Houses Uninhabited.		
1891	...	2753	1891	...	516
1901	...	3067	1901	...	297
1911	...	3554	1911	...	94
1921	...	3724	1921	...	40
1931	...	3859	1931	...	47

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births	{ Legitimate Illegitimate Total	...	...	...	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population Rate per 1,000 Total (live and stillbirths) Births ...
		...	...	...	66	
		...	...	...	3	
Still births	...	...	...	...	69	10.6
Deaths ...	...	...	...	...	3	49
					91	14.3

Death-rate per 1,000 total
(live and still) births.

Deaths from { Puerperal Sepsis ... 0
Other Puerperal Diseases... 1

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	51
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	38
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	400

∞

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	31
" Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
" Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
" Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	2

PER 1,000 OF ESTIMATED POPULATION.

Maternal Mortality Rate.

Rate of
Deaths
under
One Year
per 1,000
Live
Births

Population 12,620.	Live Birth- rate	Crude Death- rate	Death-rate from Tuberculosis Respiratory System	Death-rate from Cancer	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births	Rate of Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Live Births
Mean of 5 years, 1933-1937	10.2	13.1	0.50	1.61	Nil	Nil	58
Year—1937	9.7	14.4	0.78	1.96	Nil	Nil	40
1938	10.6	14.3	0.47	2.45	7.40	7.04	51
Increase or decrease in 1938 on—							
5 years' average, 1933-1937 ...	+0.4	+1.2	—0.03	+0.84	+7.40	+7.04	— 7
Previous year ...	+0.9	—0.1	—0.31	+0.49	+7.40	+7.04	+11

Causes of Death during 1938.

				Males	Females	Total
	ALL CAUSES ...	...	...	90	91	181
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...			0	0	0
2	Small Pox ...	...	...	0	0	0
3	Measles ...	...	...	0	0	0
4	Scarlet Fever ...	...	...	0	0	0
5	Whooping Cough ...	...	...	0	0	0
6	Diphtheria ...	...	...	0	0	0
7	Influenza ...	...	...	5	1	6
8	Encephalitis Lethargica ...	...	...	0	0	0
9	Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	...	...	0	0	0
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System			3	3	6
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases ...			1	0	1
12	Cancer ...	...	...	19	12	31
13	Syphilis ...	...	...	0	0	0
14	Diabetes ...	...	...	2	2	4
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc. ...			4	2	6
16	Heart Disease ...	...	...	17	27	44
17	Aneurysm ...	...	...	0	0	0
18	Other Circulatory Diseases ...			9	6	15
19	Bronchitis ...	...	...	2	2	4
20	Pneumonia (all forms) ...	...	...	2	2	4
21	Other Respiratory Diseases ...			1	0	1
22	Peptic Ulcer ...	...	...	1	1	2
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ...			1	1	2
24	Appendicitis ...	...	...	0	0	0
25	Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	...	0	0	0
26	Other Diseases of the Liver ...			0	0	0
27	Other Digestive Diseases ...	...	...	4	2	6
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...			3	9	12
29	Puerperal Sepsis ...	...	...	0	0	0
30	Other Puerperal Diseases ...	...	...	0	1	1
31	Congenital Debility and Malformation					
	—Premature Birth ...	...	...	1	3	4
32	Senility ...	...	...	1	4	5
33	Suicide ...	...	...	1	2	3
34	Other Deaths from Violence ...			5	5	10
35	Other defined Diseases ...	...	...	8	5	13
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown ...			0	0	0
37	General Paralysis of the Insane— tabes dorsalis ...	...	...	0	1	1
38	Diarrhoea (over 2 years) ...	...	...	0	0	0
				<hr/>		
		Total ...	...	4	3	7
Deaths of Infants		Illegitimate ...	...	2	0	2
under 1 year		Legitimate ...	...	2	3	5

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1938.

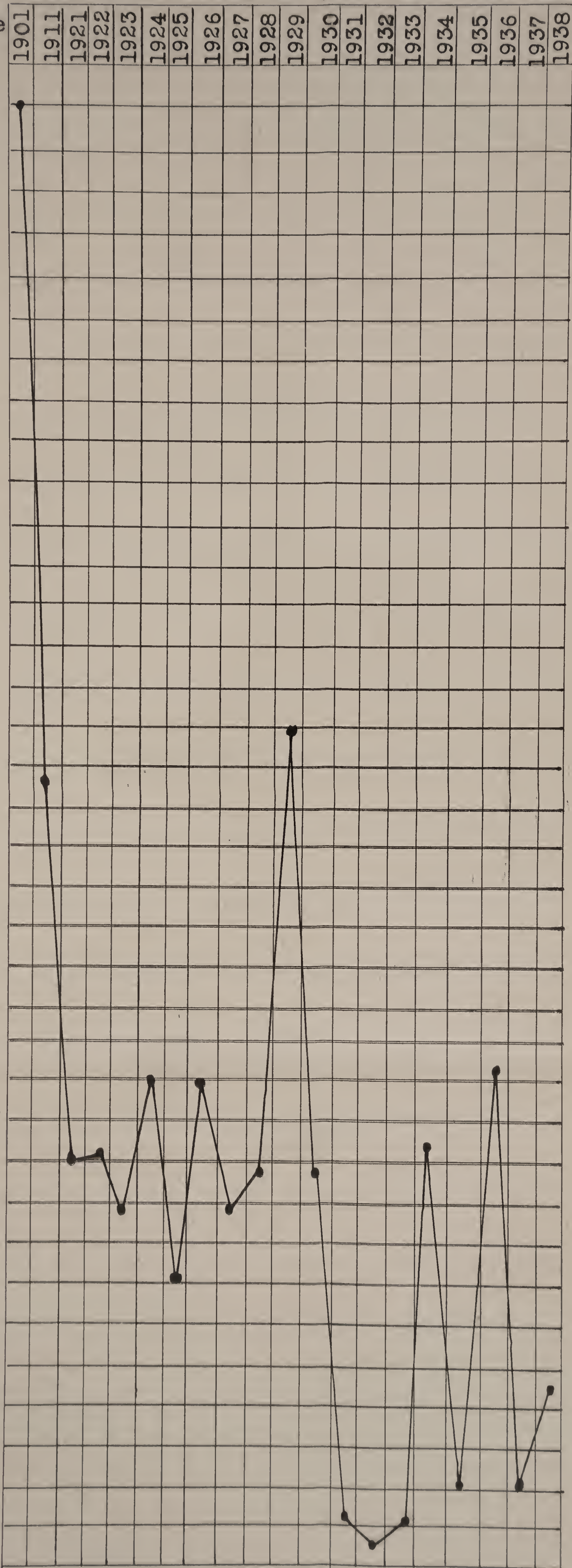
	Rate per 1,000 total population		ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.								RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.	
	Live Births	Still- Births	All Causes	Enteric Fever	Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One year.
England and Wales	15.1	0.60	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	5.5	53
126 County Boroughs & Great Towns, including London ...	15.0	0.65	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	7.8	57
148 Smaller Towns (estimated) Resident Populations, at Census 1931, 25,000 to 50,000	15.4	0.60	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	3.6	51
London	13.4	0.48	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	13.1	57
Oswaldtwistle	10.6	0.55	14.3	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.47	14.8	51

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows :—			Puerperal			Others		Total	
			Sepsis			2.19		3.08	
{ per 1,000 Live Births			0.89			2.11		2.97	
{ per 1,000 Total Births			0.86			7.04		7.04	
Oswaldtwistle			Nil						

Diagram showing the infantile Death Rate per 1,000 Births during the years 1901-1938 incl.

Infantile
Death Rate
per 1000
Births.

210
205
200
195
190
185
180
175
170
165
160
155
150
145
140
135
130
125
120
115
110
105
100
95
90
85
80
75
70
65
60
55
50
45
40
35
30



SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Council.

Medical Officer of Health, Frank W. Pare, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Part time Officer. Salary contributed to.

Sanitary Inspector, P. J. Fisher, MEM. R. SAN. I.
Certified Inspector of Meat and other Foods; Certified
in advanced knowledge in the carrying out of an
Inspector's duties. Whole time Officer. Salary
contributed to.

Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out
at the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and at the
Broughton Laboratory, Manchester, with the exception of sputum
examinations for Tuberculosis, these being examined at the
Tuberculosis Dispensary, Accrington.

"Swabs" from suspected throats are examined at the Public
Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the result telegraphed to the
doctor in charge of the case.

No. of specimens examined in 1938 :—

Throat swabs	...	...	...	128
Sputum	...	...	...	35
Water	...	...	...	28

Regarding the Sputum specimens, 31 were negative and 4
positive.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) For infectious cases—Motor Ambulance	...	} Both owned by the Council.
(b) For non-infectious cases—Motor Ambulance		

The Ambulance facilities are considered adequate.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) GENERAL NURSING.—Carried out by 2 District Nurses
under the District Nursing Association. Midwifery is not under-
taken by the Association.

(b) FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—The nursing of such cases as
measles, pneumonia, puerperal sepsis, and ophthalmia neonatorum,
is carried out by the District Nurses. The Council subscribe to
the Association.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

	Situation	Accommodation	By whom provided	
Chief Centre	Barnfield, Union Road, Oswaldtwistle	Ample	Owned by the County Council	Meeting and Consultations every Tuesday Afternoon. L.H.V. also attends daily during the week to inter- view mothers & give advice

OTHER CLINICS.

Day Nurseries		None		
School Clinics	Barnfield, Oswaldtwistle	Eye, Ear and Dental and Minor Ailments Clinics	County Council	
Tuberculosis	Accrington Tuber- culosis Dispensary		County Council	
Venereal Diseases	Blackburn Royal Infirmary	At the Out-patients' Department	County Council	Twice a week for males and twice a week for females.
Orthopaedic Clinic	Rishton		County Council	

Hospitals.

- (1) Tuberculosis ... Provided by the County Council.
- (2) Maternity {
- (3) Children {None.
- (4) Fever {Cases are sent to Blackburn and Darwen Fever Hospitals when difficulty in isolating at home arises, it is sometimes necessary, when the above hospitals are full to send cases to Burnley or Bury.
- (5) Smallpox Elm Tree Hospital, Oswaldtwistle' owned by the Council. 62 beds now available.
- (6) Other Hospitals available for the District :—

Blackburn Royal Infirmary.
 Accrington Victoria Hospital.
 Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn.
 Manchester Royal Infirmary.
 Manchester Eye Hospital.
 Blackburn Municipal Maternity Home.
 Accrington Municipal Maternity Home.

The Hospitals in Section 6 are outside the district. The Council subscribe to the two Manchester Hospitals.

Midwives.

There are two midwives on the Register residing in the Township and two or three others from neighbouring districts also do a certain amount of work in the area. No midwives are employed or subsidised by this Health Authority.

Three midwives are practising in the Township. This I consider adequate. There are no Nursing or Maternity Homes in the Township.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children ; no special provision.

The Public Assistance Institution is situated in the County Borough of Blackburn.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

The Township is supplied with water from the Council's own Waterworks. The water has no plumbo-solvent action. The bacteriological reports of samples taken during the year are satisfactory. The samples are obtained quarterly.

Last year the Council installed the Pumping Station at Town Bent Pit ; this should considerably augment the water supply and act as a reserve in the event of any future drought.

As previously mentioned, this water shows excessive hardness and certain other mineral properties, but when mixed with the Moorland water, these features will be materially neutralised. The pump is capable of raising about 25,000 gallons per hour.

The water supply available for Belthorn is still insufficient to meet all requirements, particularly as regards closet conversions.

During the year 1936 the Council considered the provision of a water supply for the Cross Edge, Newthorn, and Gaulkthorn district, which is at present supplied from springs and wells, which are liable to contamination. A meeting was held of the owners of the property which was well attended and they were unanimously of the opinion that a piped supply should be provided and laid on to each house. Your Water Engineer was instructed to prepare a scheme for your consideration.

The rainfall during the year is given in detail as follows :—

Rainfall from Jan. 1st to Dec. 31st, 1938.

	Inches.		Inches.
January	... 5.42	August	... 2.93
February	... 1.64	September	... 2.32
March ...	... 1.72	October	... 10.27
April ...	... 0.86	November	... 8.21
May ...	... 4.13	December	... 5.88
June ...	... 5.16		—
July ...	... 4.93		53.47

The greatest rainfall in a month since January, 1882, was 11.85 inches in December, 1911, and the lowest 0.15 inches in June, 1925. The highest rainfall was during the month of October. The total rainfall last year was 33.78 inches.

Water Samples.

Twenty-eight samples of water were examined during the year. The result of these examinations are fairly satisfactory. The Bacteriological reports of the samples still vary from time to time. There is a great improvement in the quality, due to the acquisition of the "gathering" grounds.

Complaints were made during the year, of the water being discoloured, and of possessing a musty flavour. These complaints ceased, when it became known that the water mains were being flushed out.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Progress still continues to be made in the sewerage of the district with sanitary glazed pipes with cemented joints and ventilating manholes, and every year a number of house drains are overhauled in converting conservancy type closets to the water closet system. In the case of new property the drains are examined by the Surveyor before being filled in, strict attention being paid to the joints and the fall of the pipes. The drainage of existing buildings is inspected by the Sanitary Inspector.

In the main road several of the disused overhead wire standards have been connected with the sewers and used for ventilation.

The sewage is dealt with at the Council's outfall works in open septic tanks, and then passed through 9-ft. deep revolving sprinkler filters, six in all, the final treatment being upon the land filter areas.

The village of Belthorn has a separate sewage disposal works on the same principle, and Knuzden sewage is dealt with by Blackburn County Borough.

The districts of Cross Edge, and Duckworth Hall, are still without a proper drainage system. I am of the opinion that the ventilation of some of our Main Sewers is not entirely satisfactory, as indicated by the offensive smells emitted from numerous manholes.

Rivers and Streams.

The chief pollution of the streams consists of the depositing of dead poultry and "droppings" therein. Notices are served on those responsible when they are found.

Closet Accommodation.

In past years the closets were almost entirely of the privy type or the waste water flushing system. The policy now is to convert as quickly as the water supply will permit, the older types to the fresh water system and with this end in view the Council received sanction from the Ministry of Health in 1938 to borrow £1,000 to carry out this work. The conversions are gradually being made and the Council contribute a sum not exceeding £3 towards the conversion of a pail or waste-water closet.

In the case of new property fresh water closets are insisted upon where a sewer and water supply are available, and pail closets where not.

Full particulars of closet conversions, etc., will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

Public Cleansing.

This subject is dealt with very fully in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

This will be found in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Shops Act, 1934.

Sixty-three shops were inspected under the above Act. There were no contraventions as regards ventilation and temperature, but there were four instances of insufficient sanitary accommodation. These have since received attention.

Camping Sites.

There are no camping sites in the district.

Smoke Abatement.

The time limit allowed for the emission of black smoke amended in 1929, is : 1 boiler 4 minutes, 2 boilers 5 minutes, 3 boilers 6 minutes, 4 boilers 7 minutes per hour. There is no serious nuisance arising from the emission of black smoke. Ten observations were made, and a representation was made in one instance which resulted in an improvement.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no swimming baths or pools within the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

There was no evidence of infestation in the Council houses of the bed bug during the year. Such houses are inspected twice yearly and representations made in the event of any uncleanly premises.

Ten other houses were found to be infested and were disinfested. The method being that the beds are disinfested by steam, and the floors and walls of the rooms sprayed with "Zaldecide," following which "Furmex" fumigating lamps are used.

The results are fairly effective, but it necessitates constant attention by the tenants.

It has not, up to the present, been considered necessary to disinfest the belongings of new tenants to Council Houses, but the Council employed a contractor to remove and disinfest belongings of persons from Clearance Areas. The beds were treated in the steam disinfector, and the furniture by H.C.N. gas in the removal van.

There does not appear to be any necessity for any supervision methods to be adopted, as the tenants so far appear to be only too glad to notify the Health Department that their premises are infested.

In the case of dirty houses, which are discovered during housing inspections and from "information received," those are sternly requested to cleanse their premises and to pay the cost of any materials used.

Schools.

The 12 Schools have been inspected from time to time.

At Saint Michael's School, Belthorn, the pail closets should be converted to the fresh water carriage system as a sewer was constructed some years ago for this purpose.

With the exception of the new schools they are all provided with waste water closets.

This type of fitting, in my opinion, should not be entertained at an Education Centre.

The water supply to all schools in the area is satisfactory.

Routine inspection of school children is carried out by the School Medical Officer of Health, and when necessary by the District Medical Officer of Health. The School M.O.H. and District M.O.H. co-operate with regard to school closure in the prevention of the spread of infectious disease. Contacts of infectious disease are excluded from school.



SECTION D.

During 1935 the Ministry of Health confirmed Clearance Orders respecting seven areas. The Council have built 48 houses to accommodate the dispossessed people.

Housing Statistics for the year 1938.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b) ..	153
(1) By Local Authority	48
(2) By other Local Authorities	0
(3) By other persons	105
(b) With State assistance under Housing Acts	48
Number of houses in course of erection under Council's Building Scheme	0

I.—Unfit Dwelling-houses.

Inspection.

1	(a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	884
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	2208
2	(a) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	157
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	485
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
4	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under 3) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	352

II.—Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers (including those brought forward from previous year)	360
---	-----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	13
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	38
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by owners	20
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

C. *Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2

D. *Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	0

IV.—Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	0
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	0
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	0
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	0
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	22
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ...	136½

I am pleased to state that there are no known cases of overcrowding in the district.



SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The milk produced within or brought into the Township is on the whole of good quality. The milk is delivered from house to house in kits and bottles, but dairies are now more in evidence than in the past.

All cowkeepers and dairymen and their premises are registered and steady progress is being made in bringing the cowsheds up to modern standards. By arrangement with the County Council, periodical samples of milk are taken at the schools for bacteriological examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936 :—

No. of dealers' licences issued during 1938, in respect of :—

Tuberculin Tested	... ..	None.
Accredited Milk (Distribution)	... ..	Three.

No. of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" milk :—

Pasteuring Plants	... ..	One.
• Retail Distributors	... ..	Eleven.

Dairies, cowsheds and milk shops are inspected every 6 months. There is a gradual improvement among the Cowkeepers, as regards methods of clean milk production and a desire for improvement in the cowsheds.

The amount of air space required for each cow in a cowshed is 600 cubic feet when habitually grazed, and 800 cubic feet when not habitually grazed.

Total No. of cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	...	78
No. on the Register	...	...	...	...	...	78
No. of Inspections during year	...	...	...	...	...	173
No. of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers)						35
No. of dairymen or milk purveyors on the Register	...					35
Dairy farms 78. Approximate number of cows in the district	...	...	...	...	...	981

The Veterinary inspection of dairy cows is carried out by the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.

(b) Meat.

The arrangements for the inspection of meat are as follows :—

Private slaughterhouses ; written notice of intended slaughter is given.

Public slaughterhouses : No such notice is given as slaughtering is carried out at regular times except in emergency, and the premises are visited at slaughtering times.

No marking of carcasses is practiced and diseased meat is disposed of by cremation at the Council's Gasworks.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	445	304	0	3473	174
Number Inspected	445	304	0	3473	174
All diseases except Tuberculosis : Whole carcases condemned	—	1	—	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	—	—	—	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	—	.3	—	.054	.57
Tuberculosis only :— Whole carcases condemned	2	7	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	3	9	—	—	3
Percentage of the number affected with tuberculosis	1.1	5.23	—	—	1.68

All butchers' shops and food stores are visited and inspected regularly in accordance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924. There are no meat stalls in the district.

There are five slaughterhouses at the public abattoirs and the district also contains two registered private slaughterhouses.

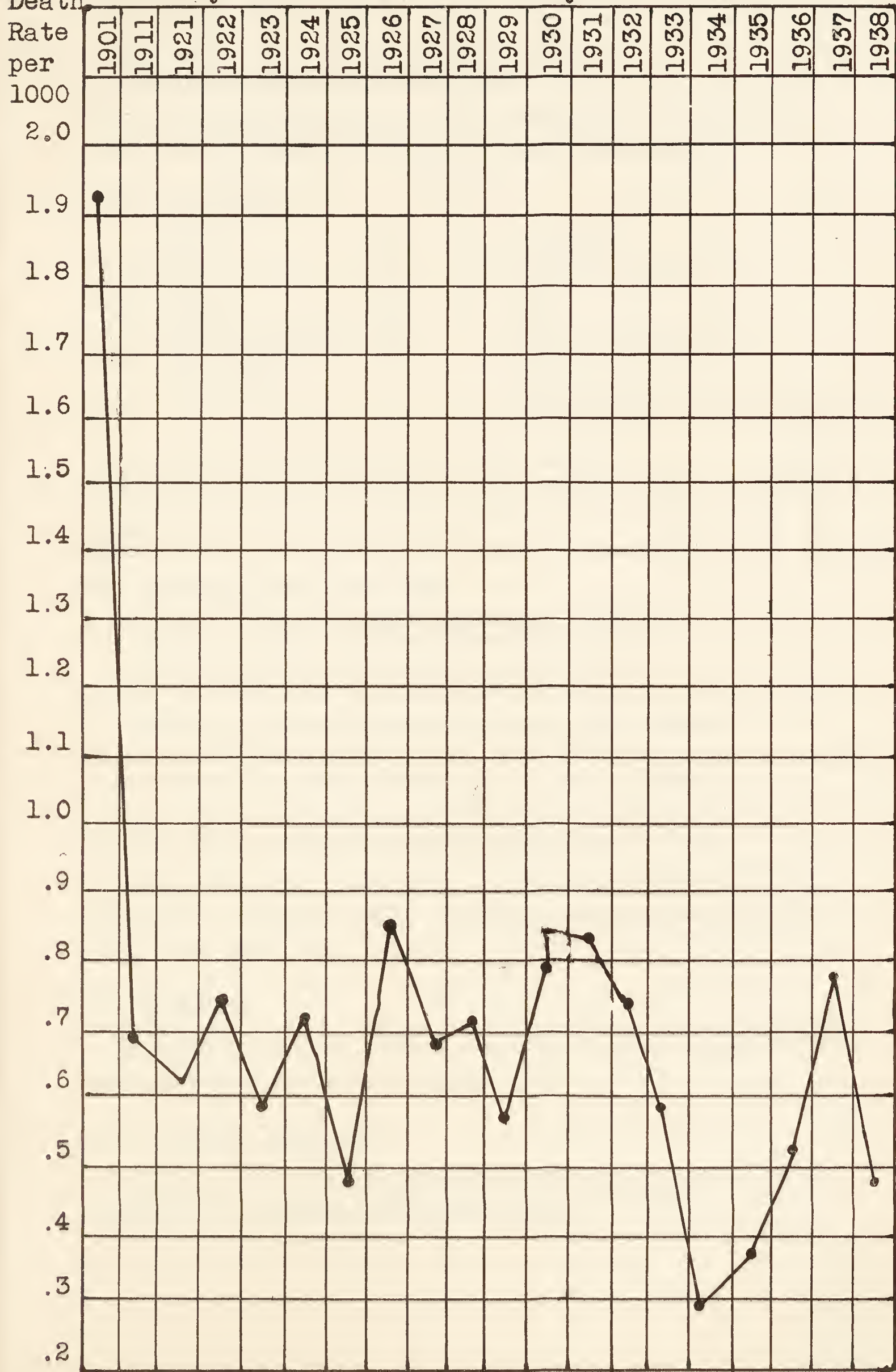
24 beasts, 6 calves, 100 sheep and 24 pigs can be laired in the Council's abattoirs.

(c) Other Foods.

Bakehouses, 30 in number, and other premises where foods are manufactured, stored or exposed for sale have been inspected from time to time and their condition found satisfactory. Legal proceedings were necessary in one instance, the defendant being fined 40/- and £2/7/- costs.

No case of food poisoning came under notice.

The following Diagram shows the Annual Death Rate from
 Death Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the years 1901-1938 incl.



(d) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928.

The undermentioned samples were purchased in Oswaldtwistle, during the year and were analysed by the Public Analyst.

By Constabulary :—

Butter	2	Cinnamon ...	1
Lard	2	Cayenne Pepper ...	1
Cheese	2	Rice	1
Milk (Samples) ...	38	Liquorice Powder .	1
Fruit Salad ...	1	Cream of Tartar ...	1
		Pearl Barley ...	1

All these samples were found to be genuine.

I am indebted to the Superintendent, Church Police, for thæes figures.

(e) Artificial Cream Act, 1929.

Public Health (Condensed Milk) Reg., 1923-7.

Public Health (Dried Milk) Reg., 1923-7.

Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Reg., 1925-7.

The above are administered by the County Council.

(f) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

During the year 12 samples of milk were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli. One was positive. The necessary action was then taken by the Lancashire County Council.

(g) Nutrition.

Lectures are given to mothers at the Child Welfare Centre under the auspices of the County Council.

(h) Shell-fish (Molluscan).

No action was called for respecting the above, as only a small quantity are consumed within the district.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

General.

There was a decrease in the incidence of scarlet fever during the year. The number of cases of diphtheria notified showed an increase of two. There has been no marked prevalence of other notifiable infectious diseases. Some difficulty was experienced in obtaining admission of severe cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria to Isolation Hospitals. This difficulty will be removed when the Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital scheme comes into being.

The Hospital treatment of uncomplicated cases of infectious disease has been discontinued, especially scarlet fever. The results of home nursing and supervision are satisfactory.

No action has been taken to provide artificial immunisation against diphtheria. In my opinion the adoption of an active immunisation campaign of the pre-school and school child against diphtheria would lessen the incidence and mortality rate of this disease. I do particularly stress this point.

On the notification of a case of Infectious Disease a visit is paid to the patient's home by the Sanitary Inspector, to ascertain the suitability of the premises for isolating the case, and the ability of the relatives to nurse it.

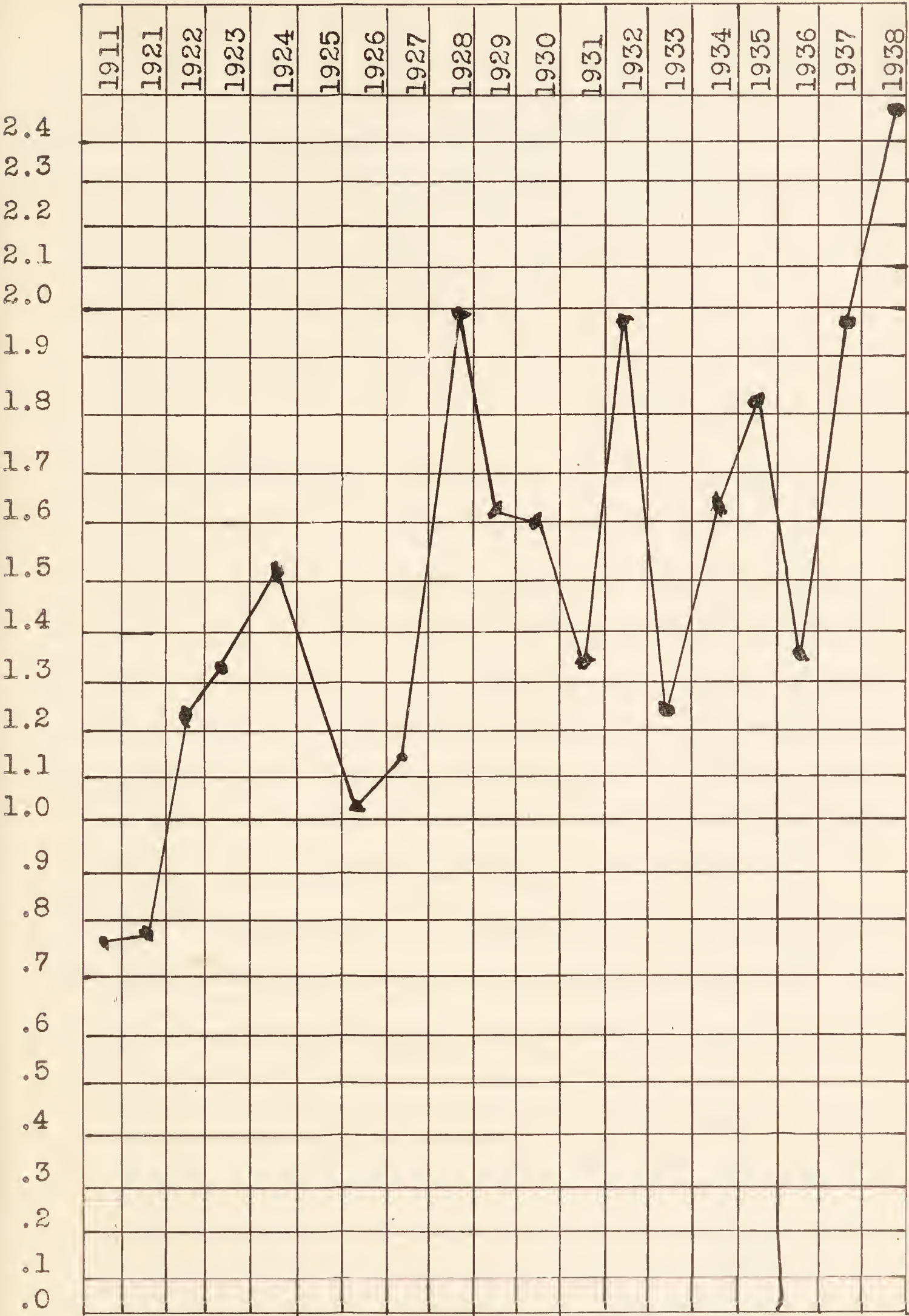
Printed instructions are left, school children excluded from school, and on the termination of the disease, the premises, bedding, etc., are disinfected.

Weekly reports are received from the School Attendance Officer giving the number of absences from school and the illness causing the absence. These reports are of use in ascertaining whether any infectious cases have not been notified previously and in detecting outbreaks of infectious diseases in any particular school.

Scarlet Fever.

During 1938, three cases of scarlet fever were notified as against twelve last year. The disease was of a mild type and no deaths occurred. One case was removed to Hospital.

DEATH RATE FROM CANCER DURING YEARS 1911-1938



CANCER

There was a regrettable increase of 6 deaths from cancer, during the year.

SECTION F.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.																
Disease	Total cases notified	Under												Total deaths	Cases admitted to Hospital	Deaths of persons in Hospital belonging to this district
		1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 and over			
Small-pox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Diphtheria	18	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	14	0
Scarlet Fever	3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pneumonia	7	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	2	4	?	?
Erysipelas	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
Acute Polio-Myelitis	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malaria	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis {M. 2 } {F. 4 }	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0 }	6	6	1
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis {M. 2 } {F. 2 }	4	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0 }	1	2	1
Totals	43	0	0	0	0	2	8	10	5	8	3	4	3	11	23	2

I have not observed any special incidence of notifiable diseases due to overcrowding.

SECTION F.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

The Dick Test and active immunisation have not been employed by the Health Department. The majority of the cases occurred in the age period 5—15 years.

Diphtheria.

Eighteen cases were notified with no deaths ; fourteen cases were removed to hospital.

The Schick test or active immunisation methods have not been employed. The administration of Prophylactic doses of Anti-toxin to immediate contacts is recommended to practitioners.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is supplied gratis when necessary. A supply is kept at the Town Hall and a serum syringe is kept ready and lent out on request. 112,000 units of anti-toxin were issued during 1938.

Enteric (including Paratyphoid) Fever.

No cases were notified in 1938.

Measles, Whooping Cough, Chicken-pox, etc.

There was no marked incidence of these diseases during the year, but with the exception of a mild outbreak of measles.

Small-pox.

No cases of Small-pox occurred during the year and no action was necessary under the Small-pox Prevention Regulations 1917.

Public Health (Infectious Disease) Regulations, 1927.

Seven cases of acute primary and acute influenzal pneumonia were notified. There were four deaths, which give a mortality rate of 57 per 100 cases notified. Pneumonia cases are nursed by the District Nurse. No cases of malaria or dysentery occurred.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action necessary during the year.

Disinfection.

Bedding, etc., is disinfected in the Steam Disinfector situated at the Council's Gasworks, and rooms are sprayed with Chloros and afterwards fumigated.

Schools are notified where children of school age are affected or in contact with infectious disease, and the school premises are sprayed and fumigated as occasion may require.

Library books from infected houses are disinfected and the Librarian notified.

We have no station for the cleansing and disinfestation of verminous persons, but when required arrangements are made to have the use of Accrington Corporation Depot. No action was called for during the year.

Cancer.

There was a regrettable increase of 6 deaths from Cancer during the year.

Tuberculosis.

On Form A.	Primary Notifications	...	...	...	10
„ B.	„ „	Schools	...	...	0
„ I.	Admission to Sanatorium or Hospital	...	...	...	8
„ II.	Discharged from Sanatorium or Hospital...	...	...	...	3

The notification of tuberculosis in the district during the year was satisfactory. All registered deaths from tuberculosis were notified previously.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age periods years	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
5-10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
10-15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-20	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
20-25	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
25-35	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
35-45	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0
45-55	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-65	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
65 & upwds	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
	2	4	2	2	3	3	1	0
Totals	6		4		6		1	

Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations, 1930.

No. of cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the notification register on 31st December, 1938 :—

Total Cases.	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
34	9	8	17	8	9	17

The total number of cases on the register at the end of 1938 was : Pulmonary, 17 ; Non-Pulmonary, 17. The above table shows an increase of two Non-Pulmonary on the previous year.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

No action has been called for under the above regulations which concerns tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The whole of this work together with the Welfare Centre were taken over by the County Council on April 1st, 1928.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1938.

1. Conversion of large number of ashpits to dustbin system.
2. Reconditioning of dwelling-houses.
3. Completion of Housing Scheme to accommodate families displaced by Demolition Orders.
4. Removal of tenants displaced to new Council houses.
5. The provision of accommodation for all overcrowded families.
6. The conversion of waste water closets to that of the Fresh Water Carriage System.

CHIEF SANITARY REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

1. Extension of sewer and water supply to Cross Edge and Newthorn districts.
2. Completion of Ashpit and Closet Conversion Schemes.
3. The sewerage of Duckworth Hall.

APPENDIX.

The administration of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, and
the Factories Act 1937, in connection with
Factories, Workshops, Workplaces & Homework

I.—INSPECTION.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR
INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories with mechanical power	27	4	0
Factories without mechanical power	17	0	0
Other Premises	40	0	0
Total	84	4	0

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Num- ber of Prose- cutions (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Refer- red to H.M. Ins- pector (4)	
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation	insufficient	1	1	—
	unsuitable or defective	—	—	—
	not separate for sexes	1	1	—
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork or offences under the Sections mentioned in Schedule to Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921).	—	—	—	—
Total	4	4	—	—

3.—HOME WORK.

There are no Out-workers.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

PAGE 30

Workshops on the Register (s.31) at the end of the year. (1)	Number. (2)
Painters	6
Pickle Manufacturers	1
Bakehouses	30
Boot and Clog Makers	12
Dressmakers and Milliners and Garment Makers	7
Joiners	5
Plumbers	5
Wheelwrights	1
Tailoring	2
Smiths	1
Coopers	1
Firelight Manufacturers	2
Gas Fitting	1
Metal Brokers	2
Garages	3
Cycle Repairers	1
Petrol Station	3
Skin Curier and Rug Maker	1
Fat and Tallow Dealer	1
Wireless Dealers	2
Total number of Workshops on Register	88

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,
TOWN HALL,
OSWALDTWISTLE.

MAY 1ST, 1939.

—————O—————

**To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the
Urban District Council of Oswaldtwistle.**

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report on the work carried out by the Sanitary Department for the year ending December 31st, 1938, also for the Cleansing Department for the year ending March 31st, 1939.

During the year 2,208 dwelling-houses were inspected to ascertain whether the same were in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, and 485 were found not to be in all respects so fit. The number of dwelling-houses rendered fit was 360.

The general repair to dwelling-houses is a very important social service and is greatly appreciated by the occupiers generally, rendering their lives more tolerable during these present depressed times.

Overcrowding.

At the beginning of the year we had 10 known cases of overcrowding; four families were accommodated in the Council houses, and the remainder secured larger houses on their own initiative.

Clearance Areas.

During the year 25 families were removed to the new Council houses, and who now appear to have settled down in their new surroundings very well. Most of the families bought an entirely new set of house furniture, and thus had a new start. Subsequent inspections have revealed that there is no cause for complaint.

Individual Unfit Houses.

Four families were removed from individual unfit houses and back-to-back houses into the new Council houses. Four houses were condemned as being unfit for human habitation, either under official demolition orders or by informal action. Two houses were demolished and one vacated, pending demolition,

and one is being used for some purpose other than for human habitation. One house was dealt with under the Housing Act, and a bedroom was condemned as unfit for human habitation.

Back-to-Back Houses.

Nine back-to-back houses were reconstructed into through houses. There remains only one house of this type to be dealt with.

Refuse Receptacles.

Fairly good progress has been made during the year in the conversion of the remaining ash pits in the district, 213 being converted to the dustbin system. An effort will be made during the present year for every house to be provided with a sanitary dustbin. Considerable progress has been made in the provision of means of access for the removal of the dust-bin, by the provision of "sanitary locks" on either the yard or bin shed doors. The universal provision of easy means of access will considerably expedite collection of house refuse.

**WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT
1936, AND HOUSING ACT, 1936.**

Nuisances.

During the year 312 nuisances have been abated, which have necessitated the following :—

Service of informal notices	...	...	...	361
Service of statutory notices	...	...	...	19
Interviews	...	...	...	218
Inspections	...	...	...	884
Re-inspections	...	...	...	2693
Total Inspections	...	...	...	3577

Classification of Nuisances remedied under the Public Health Acts.

Ashpits made sufficient	...	...	...	39
Ashpits abolished	...	...	...	172
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	2
Closets made sufficient	...	...	...	22
Drains made sufficient	...	...	...	35
Dust bins provided	...	...	...	213
Dustbins renewed	...	...	...	102
Yard surfaces repaired or re-laid	...	...	...	27
Other nuisances	...	...	...	0

Classification of Defects remedied under Housing Acts.

Ceilings plastered	...	...	...	21
Ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	3
Dampness removed	...	...	...	1
Downspouts renewed or repaired	...	...	...	23
Doors and frames renewed or repaired	...	...	...	24
Eaves gutters renewed or repaired	...	...	...	24
Fire ranges renewed or repaired	...	...	...	26
Floors repaired	...	...	...	21
Handrails provided	...	...	...	23
Roofs made watertight	...	...	...	23
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	8

Classification of Defects remedied under Housing Acts.—*cont.*

Sinks repaired or provided	...	...	...	6
Walls repaired	...	...	...	21
Walls plastered	...	...	...	22
Walls cleansed	...	...	...	6
Windows repaired	...	...	...	86
Washboilers repaired or provided	...	...	...	2
Other defects	...	...	...	6
Chimneys repaired	...	...	...	5
Back-to-back houses made into through houses...				8

Closet Accommodation at end of 1938.

No. of pail closets	...	...	...	226
No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens)	...	...	...	248
No. of movable ashbins for refuse	...	...	...	3646
No. of fresh water closets	...	...	...	1243
No. of waste water closets	...	...	...	2337

Conversions :—

	<i>During the year 1938</i>	<i>During the five years 1933-37</i>
No. of privy closets :—		
To fresh water closets	...	0
To waste water closets	...	0
To pails, etc.	...	0
No. of pail closets :—		
To fresh water closets	...	10
To waste water closets	...	0
No. of waste water closets to fresh water closets	...	64
No. of houses at which mov- able ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	...	213

Infectious Diseases.

The Medical Officer of Health has elsewhere given statistics and tables relating thereto. Each case has been visited and disinfectants supplied gratis, together with printed instructions regarding home nursing and preventive measures.

At the termination of the disease, when the patient is nursed at home, and on receipt of notice to that effect from the doctor attending the case, the infected bedding is disinfected in our steam disinfector, the infected room sprayed with "Chloros" and afterwards fumigated; the bedding being returned dry, disinfected and fit for immediate use.

Where the patient is removed to hospital, the above method of disinfection is carried out immediately after the removal has taken place.

Head teachers are notified where children of school age are either affected or in contact with infectious disease, and schools are also sprayed and fumigated from time to time, as occasion may require. Library books from infected houses are fumigated, and afterwards returned to the Public Library, the Librarian also being notified.

I am obliged to the School Attendance Officer for his co-operation for notifying suspicious cases of illness amongst school children which in some cases have actually been notifiable infectious diseases.

Disinfection.

The following disinfections have been carried out during the year :—

No. of houses sprayed and fumigated	...	...	43
No. of articles disinfected (steam)	...	...	594

CAUSES FOR DISINFECTION OF ARTICLES BY STEAM DISINFECTOR.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	34
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	183
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	47
Other causes (death, etc.)	...	...	...	...	57
For Church U.D.C.	...	...	...	...	85
For Accrington Corporation	...	...	...	...	188
					<hr/> 594

Our Steam Disinfector is a benefit to the Township as will be observed by the number of articles which have been disinfected during the year. The Church Urban District Council continue to use the apparatus as in previous years.

LIST OF ARTICLES DISINFECTED.

Beds	116
Other articles	393
	<hr/>
	594

ARTICLES DESTROYED ON RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REQUEST FROM OWNERS.

Beds 41. Mattresses 21. Other Articles 66.

Bakehouses.

The 30 Bakehouses within the Township have been inspected and were found to be in a clean and sanitary condition.

Slaughterhouses.

There are two private Slaughterhouses within the District.

Public Abattoirs.

There are 5 Slaughterhouses at the Council's Abattoirs and 5 Lairages. 24 beasts, 6 calves, 100 sheep and 24 pigs can be laired. During the year the following animals were slaughtered :

Beasts	749	Pigs	174
Sheep and Lambs	3473	Goats	—
Calves	0		<hr/>
			4396

An increase of 243 animals over last year.

The Slaughterhouses are kept in a clean condition ; an employee of the Council residing at the Abattoirs, and the process of killing is kept under observation and the carcasses inspected. New overhead runways were provided in 2 Slaughterhouses during the year.

The Council's annual charges for the use of the Abattoirs are as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
One Occupier with sole use of Slaughterhouse ...	20	0	0
Two Occupiers „ „ „ ...	25	0	0
Three Occupiers „ „ „ ...	27	10	0

The rent includes the free use of gas, water (hot and cold) and the use of pens and lairs. Casual slaughtering is charged for at the rate of 1/6 per beast and 6d. per small animal. All swine, even when slaughtered by tenants, are charged as “casuals,” and charged 1/6 for the first and 1/- for each subsequent animal.

Humane Slaughtering.

The Council's Byelaws relating to humane slaughtering which have been in operation since 1928, were repealed by the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. The Act, so far as this district is concerned, has not caused any change except for the licensing of all slaughtermen.

The instrument chosen by the Council as being the most humane is the "Cash Captive Bolt Pistol," which is really a form of mechanical pole-axe, actuated by means of a small explosive cartridge, no bullet whatever is used.

In no case has the use of the pistol had any injurious effect upon the meat.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The above Order regulates all Dairies and Cowsheds, and we have 78 Cowkeepers and 35 Dairymen registered. There were 173 visits paid to these premises. With four exceptions the whole of the milk sold is produced in the district.

Improvements have been carried out at two farms, mainly reconstruction work, the increase of air space, amount of lighting and ventilation, and improvements in paving and drainage work, and the provision of proper dairies, electric light and power sterilizers, refrigerators and water supply.

The approximate expenditure involved in the alterations of the two farms in question cost the owners the sum of £100.

It is pleasing to report that there is an increased desire on the part of the cowkeepers to improve their premises.

During the year a census was taken, whilst the routine inspections were made, of the accommodation available for cattle and the number actually kept. The figures were rather surprising. The cowsheds in the district will accommodate 1,272 cows, but only 981 are kept. Therefore only 77% of the accommodation is used. The dairy farms where there were vacant cowsheds were occupied by retailer-producers, but it was usually found that all available space was occupied where the farmer sold his milk by wholesale.

Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936.

At present we have three farmers or dairymen producing Accredited milk in the district and the following retailers :—

Accredited 3.

Pasteurized 11.

The North-East Lancashire Co-operative Dairy at Blackburn Road, Oswaldtwistle, carries out the pasteurization of milk under the latest and most hygienic methods.

They supply a considerable part of the population of Accrington, Blackburn, Church, Darwen and Oswaldtwistle. I have frequent opportunities of inspecting the premises and examining the Bacteriologist's Report, and on every occasion this complies with the requirements of the Milk Special Designations Order, 1936.

There is no Tuberculin Tested Milk sold in the district.

Inspection of Food.

Regular inspection is made of places where food is prepared. The general cleanliness of these places is very good, and every facility is given to me at the time of inspection. As far as practicable, attention is given to the perishable foodstuffs which are retailed within the District.

Unsound Food.

The following foodstuffs have been destroyed during the year as unfit for human consumption :—

			1938
			lbs.
(a) Tuberculous carcasses and parts	...	...	7141
(b) Diseased, unsound or unwholesome (other than above)	...	...	660
			<hr/>
			7801
1925—860½ lbs.	1926—3375 lbs.	1927—3943 lbs.	
1928—3644 lbs.	1929—1758 lbs.	1930—1252½ lbs.	
1931—1013 lbs.	1932—1827 lbs.	1933—2666 lbs.	
1934—3462 lbs.	1935—3306 lbs.	1936—5112 lbs.	
1937—8624 lbs.			

The whole of the unsound food disposed of was surrendered upon request. Condemned meat, etc., is disposed of by cremation at the Council's Gasworks. I am indebted to Mr. Jnoes, your Gas Engineer, for making it possible to entirely destroy all the diseased meat by such a satisfactory method as cremation. I have never been satisfied in the past with the method of forwarding diseased meat to "recovery" factories where the ultimate destination or use has been uncertain.

Petroleum Acts.

30 licences were granted or renewed under these Acts.

There were no infringements observed.

Offensive Trades.

The following trades are controlled by our Bye-laws with respect to offensive trades :—Blood boiler, blood drier, bone boiler, fell-monger, tanner, leather dresser, soap boiler, tallow melter, fat melter, fat extractor, tripe boiler, glue maker, size maker, gut scraper, dealer in rags and bones, fish fryer.

There are in the Township 17 fish fryers, 3 tripe boilers and 3 marine stores. These businesses are inspected from time to time during the year, and on the whole are kept in a clean and sanitary condition ; 23 visits were paid to these premises.

Factories, Workshops, etc.

88 workshops are now on the register and their classification will be found in the report of the Medical Officer.

88 visits have been made to these places during the year. The majority were found to be in a clean and satisfactory condition and 4 were dealt with on account of infringements.

Smoke Abatement.

Twelve observations were made of factory chimneys for the purposes of the Public Health Smoke Abatement Act, 1926.

Our standard is as follows :—

4	minutes	per	hour	per	one boiler.
5	„	„	„	„	two boilers.
6	„	„	„	„	three boilers.
7	„	„	„	„	four or more boilers.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

Used for human habitation. During the year one inspection was made of these premises.

Motor Ambulance.

The Motor Ambulance continues to serve the public and has proved of real use.

The Ambulance removed 433 persons during the year as against 401 last year, an increase of 32 cases.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.

During the year several complaints were made by the occupiers of dwelling-houses of the presence of rats. Measures were taken to render the premises rat-proof by reconstruction of the drainage

and stopping up the "runs." It is well-known that rats frequent the banks of the streams which run through the urban portion of the district. It was therefore necessary to ascertain where the "runs" were, and about 14 pounds of red squill "baits" were laid and which were consumed. This type of bait is recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture as being harmless to other animals.

Shops Act, 1934.

Under the above Act the Council have had certain duties assigned to them regarding heating and ventilation of shops and the provision of sanitary accommodation. This brings the shops to some extent on a par with workshops.

The shops in the district comply with the requirements of the Act. During the current year the Lancashire County Council requested the County districts to administer the provisions of the Act, which ordinarily come within the jurisdiction of the County Council, dealing with the employment of young persons between the ages 16 and 18, half-holidays and facilities for the taking of meals, etc.

The means of Heating, Lighting and Ventilation of the shops is mainly satisfactory, but the sanitary accommodation at four shops required action being taken, to secure improvement.

Cleansing Dept., Collection and Disposal of House Refuse.

The Street Cleansing and House Refuse Collection Report covers the financial year, namely, from April 1st, 1938, to March 31st, 1939. With the exception of Belthorn, the whole of the cleansing, both refuse collection and disposal, is carried out by the Council, under my supervision through the Cleansing Department ; the work at Belthorn is by contract and is carried out in a satisfactory manner at a cost of £60 per annum.

The Township has been divided into areas for the purpose of refuse collection, and the work is carried out systematically, very few complaints being received, a daily check being made as to when the receptacle was last cleansed.

Storage of Refuse.

The Council's desires are being met in the conversion of the open ashpit system to that of the movable dust bin ; it will be seen that this will contribute to a lighter and drier refuse and consequently less offensive and approximately 213 were so converted during the year.

It is regrettable that the householders of the district do not exercise more care in the amount of refuse made. At present about one-third consists of paper and other combustible matter which could easily be destroyed in the firegrate, instead of adding to the cost of removal, and, incidently, affecting the rates.

During the present year, owners of property were requested to convert their former ashpits, so as to form storage sheds for the dustbin, and at the same time to provide means of ready access for the purpose of dustbin collection, by the provision of doors in the back streets, furnished with a sanitary lock, or by fixing the sanitary lock on the yard door and removing the existing bolt. A specimen door complete with the lock can be seen at the Health Office. The special lock is simple and economical and to some extent foolproof. The general adoption of these locks will do much to expedite the collection service, and incidentally render it unnecessary to climb over yard walls when back doors are bolted, or to herald the approach of the dustmen by loud knockings on back doors, thus interrupting the housewife at her household duties. Refuse collection should be a silent and orderly service. The hearty co-operation of all owners of property is still respectfully invited.

House Refuse Collection.

The refuse is collected from dustbins daily, and weekly, and from ashpits fortnightly and is collected by means of a Karrier and Dennis Refuse Freighter.

Collection and Disposal of Excreta, Trade Refuse, etc.

	1938	1937
Loads of excreta removed	179	246
(Weekly collection from 247 pails and 3 cesspools monthly)		
Loads of Fish Refuse removed	79	69
Loads of Trade Refuse removed	102	133

The arrangements made some time ago with Accrington Corporation to collect and destroy fish refuse from this district have been cancelled, and we now dispose of this matter by burial at your White Ash Tip in the early mornings.

Garbage and trade waste is collected weekly and deposited at the Council's White Ash Tip and satisfactorily covered.

The contents of cesspools and excreta pails are deposited down the sewer manholes at White Ash and Belthorn.

House Refuse Disposal.

The house refuse is disposed of entirely by controlled tipping, The tips are satisfactory and free from nuisance. Tipping is carried out according to the Minister of Health's recommendations, and it is an economical method of disposal as compared with "separation and incineration."

The bulk of the house refuse is disposed of at the central tip at White Ash even from certain of the outlying districts such as Blackburn Road and West End, Stanhill, Broadfield and Cross Edge, Redwalls, Hoyle Bottom, Knuzden and Duckworth Hall,

House Refuse Collection.

The following are the costs of house refuse collection and disposal :—

	1938-9	1937-8
	£	£
Wages of Scavengers	673	686
Motor Transport	482	559
Scavenging of Belthorn	60	60
Tools	3	7
Disinfectants	1	2
Trade Refuse	41	17
Fish Refuse	32	17
Printing	3	5
Insurance Premiums	11	10
Wheelwright's and Motor Repairs ...	51	91
Garage	16	15
Sundries	1	—
New Refuse Freighter... ..	—	568
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£1374	£2037
Less Receipts	42	76
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£1332	£1961
House Refuse Disposal.	£	£
Rent of tips	72	77
Wages	148	138
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£1552	£2176

Number of Houses Scavenged.

1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
55,637	54,975	56,000	66,748	67,349	78,109	80,374
1934	1935	1936	1937	1938		
90,620	104,473	113,251	189,793	217,536		

The total number of houses cleansed was 217,536, as against 189,793 during the last year, an increase of 27,743 houses.

				1938-9	1937-8
Number of Dustbins	...	...	...	3646	3433
Number of Ashpits	...	...	...	248	200
Average number of emptyings	...	...	...	26 (ashpits)	52 (bins)
Estimated number of tons removed	...	...	...	4405	5283
Estimated weight per 1,000 persons	...	...	...	338 tons	406 ½ tons
Cost per house per cleansing	...	...	...	1.71d.	3.96d.

				1938-9	1937-8
Cost per estimated ton	...	...	...	7/0½	7/5
Cost of Collection per 1,000 persons	...	...	...	£102/9/2	£150/10/2
Cost of Disposal per 1,000 persons	...	...	...	£16/11/-	£16/10/9
Cost per ton (estimated)	...	...	...	11.99d.	9.76d.

Net cost of Collection and Disposal equivalent to rate in pound of 6.8d.

Number of men employed up to 31st March, 1939 :

Loaders	...	...	...	...	...	5
Motor Drivers	...	...	...	...	...	2

Street Cleansing—Main Roads.

Our main roads and streets are swept daily by hand, and, when required, our horse-drawn rotary brush is used. The cleanliness of our roads and streets has been maintained and will bear favourably with those of other industrial Townships (all streets including Blackburn Road (A679), Union Road and New Lane (B6231), and Stanhill Lane (B6234).).

The following shows the mileage of the roads and streets which are cleansed by the Health Department.

Blackburn Road (A679)	...	...	...	1.96 miles
Union Road and New Lane (B6231)	...	...	...	1.25 „
Stanhill and Stanhill Lane (B6234)	...	...	...	.9 „
Public Streets	...	...	...	6.3 „
				<hr/>
				10.41 „
				<hr/>

						1938-9	1937-8
EXPENDITURE :—						£	£
Wages	...	...	...	...	...	272	378
Gully Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	61	43
Wheelwright's Work and Tools	...	...	...	...	...	6	5
Insurance	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
Printing	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Gritting	...	...	...	...	...	—	7
Disinfectants	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
A679	...	...	...	...	...	250	250
B6231	...	...	...	...	...	} 297	297
B6234	...	...	...	...	...
						<hr/>	<hr/>
						£891	£985
Cost per mile	...	...	...	...	...	£87 13s.	0d.

Net cost equivalent to rate in £ of 3.9d.

	1938-9	1937-8
Number of gullies emptied by Motor	4303	2864

Men employed on street cleansing :—

Full time	...	...	...	...	4
Part time	...	...	...	...	2

In conclusion, I desire to acknowledge the many kindnesses extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Clerk to the Council, Medical Officer of Health, the Accountant, Surveyor, Gasworks Engineer, my staff, and all others who have assisted me in the discharge of my duties.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

P. J. FISHER,

Mem. Royal Sanitary Institute.

(Cert. Inspector of Meat and other Foods).

*(Cert. of the Royal San. Inst., Advanced Knowledge
in the work of a Sanitary Inspector).*

Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.



